

**Columbia Toxics Reduction Strategy Meeting: Summary of Meeting
Toxics Monitoring Group
December 6th, 2006
Portland, OR**

Attendees:

John Piccininni BPA
Brent Foster, Columbia Riverkeeper
Rachel Pecore, Columbia Riverkeeper
Jesse Schwartz, Jones and Stokes
Jill Leary, LCREP
Scott McEwen, LCREP
Lyndal Johnson, NOAA
Robert Anderson, NOAA
Jim Ruff, NPPC
Steve Waste, NPPC
Chuck Harman, ODEQ
Greg Coffeen, ODEQ
Kevin Masterson, ODEQ
Larry Caton, ODEQ
Paul Seidel, ODEQ
Ashley Burt, URS
Chris Moody, URS
Mark Siipola, US ACE
Andrew Kolosseus, WDOE
James Thomas, Yakama Nation

Bruce Duncan, EPA
Joanne LaBaw, EPA
Lorraine Edmond, EPA
Mike Cox, EPA
Michael Watson, EPA
Tony Olsen, EPA
Walt Nelson, EPA
Gina Hoff, USBR
Rick Cornett, USBR
Frank McCormick, USFS
Jeremy Buck USFWS
Toni Davidson, USFWS
Alec Maule, USGS
Bill McFarland, USGS
Elena Nilsen, USGS
Greg Fuhrer, USGS
Jennifer Morace, USGS
Tony Paulsen, USGS
Dale Norton, WDOE
Joanne Cornwall, Yakama Nation

Next Meeting: Monday March 12, Washington State Department of Ecology, Lacey, WA

Introduction/Roundtable

The meeting was held in Portland, OR and was hosted by the USGS. Bill McFarland of USGS welcomed the group. A special thanks to Greg Fuhrer for coordinating the meeting and lunch logistics and to Jill Leary for developing the agenda and working with Greg on coordination. Both of these take considerable time and resources

Bruce Duncan provided an overview of the ongoing efforts in the Columbia River Basin and specifically of the monitoring group. He also provided suggestions on the direction and structure for the group along with questions that needed to be addressed (e.g., spatial scale, contaminants to monitor, media to sample, seasonality issues, and resources). We went around the table with each person providing an update on current and future activities.

Presentations

- **Greg Fuhrer USGS:** In preparation for the December 6th meeting, agencies and organizations were asked to provide information regarding contaminant monitoring efforts. The purpose of collecting the data was to focus the monitoring group on the

contaminants of concern, media to sample, appropriate sample timing, and geographic scope. Greg Fuhrer from USGS compiled the data provided and presented the information at the meeting.

- Jill Leary LCREP: Jill provided a map that identifies the sites where monitoring data has been collected in the Columbia Basin. The next step is for Helen Rueda to make a toxics reduction map and overlay it with toxics monitoring map.
- Lorraine Edmond EPA Region 10: Lorraine discussed that approximately \$385,000 over two years will be available from EPA's Regional Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (REMAP) for work in the Columbia Basin. The primary purpose is to assess and characterize toxics (e.g. PCBs, DDT/DDE, mercury) in fish, water and sediment in the mid- Columbia River mainstem using a probabilistic sample design and to provide information about sources of these contaminants from the tributaries. A RFP will be out in December/January.
- Tony Olsen EPA ORD Corvallis: Tony discussed several monitoring design alternatives. He emphasized the importance of identifying the objectives of the monitoring prior to working on a design (e.g., how many miles of the Mid-Columbia have fish tissue concentrations greater than criteria?). He provided examples of designs using ecoregions or watershed basins as the basis for design.
- Walt Nelson EPA ORD Newport: Walt discussed the results of the National Coastal Assessment (NCA). The NCA is the coastal portion EMAP. He compared the results from around the Nation for several indices (e.g., water quality index, benthic index).
- Elena Nilsen USGS: Elena discussed her work to develop analytical methods to characterize pharmaceuticals and personal care products in sediments. She presented her work in New Orleans and how this relates to potential work in the Lower Columbia.

Summary of Action Items

The afternoon was spent addressing questions on the spatial scale for monitoring; what contaminants should be monitored; what media should be monitored; modeling; and data needs. The action items from these discussions include:

1) Subgroups will provide proposals at next meeting for how to move ahead

- **Contaminants and Media Subgroup**: The contaminant subgroup presented an initial draft tiered list of potential contaminants for monitoring. Tier 1: PCBs, Mercury, DDT. Tier 2: PBDEs, PAHs, Tier 3; Arsenic, Lead, Dioxins/furans. The subgroup will come back with a proposal at the next meeting on the contaminants to monitor and the media Members: Andrew Kolosseus (WDOE); Jill Leary (LCREP); Jennifer Morace (USGS); Barbara Harper (CTUIR); Helen Rueda (EPA); Lyndal Johnson (NOAA); Rachel Pecore (Columbia Riverkeeper); Jeremy Buck (USFWS), Greg Fuhrer (USGS).
- **Data Subgroup**: The data subgroup will continue work on developing a map that includes locations of Current and past toxics reduction efforts. Members: Helen Rueda (EPA); Others?

- **Sources Subgroup:** The sources subgroup will provide information on potential sources at the next meeting. Members: Linda Bigler (PNL); John Sands (DOE); Mike Watson (EPA); Joanne Labaw (EPA)
- **Modeling Subgroup:** The modeling group will present a conceptual site model for the site for discussion. Members: Jesse Schwartz (Jones and Stokes); Jeff Ward (PNNL)
- **Monitoring Design/Outreach Subgroup:** These are on hold for now until the other groups provide input

2) Form Steering Committee: In order to provide direction for the group and help in organizing meetings EPA will work with LCREP to form a Steering Committee for the Monitoring Group. The committee will consist of representatives from various agencies/organizations and will be organized by EPA and LCREP

3) Put notes, presentations, etc on EPA Columbia Basin website: EPA and LCREP will work with web designers to put information on website.

4) Develop one-pager describing group's purpose, objectives, structure, and partners: There was discussion at the meeting on the objectives, purpose, etc of the monitoring group, in order to help focus the group and provide context for newcomers to the group, EPA will develop a one-pager that will be shared with the group for discussion.

5) Engage senior managers in Agencies/tribes/organizations about project
In order to secure resources it will be necessary to engage senior managers. EPA will take the lead in first talking with senior managers within EPA and then strategizing on the best approach for engaging senior managers from other groups involved in effort.

6) REMAP: EPA will inform group when RFP comes out.

7) Toxics monitoring data: EPA will send synopses of Coastal EMAP and CRITFC to Greg Fuhrer to include with his ongoing summary of agency work